CLAIMS

1. A dust control mat having a textile layer and a backing layer, wherein the textile layer includes a spacer fabric having a first fabric layer that forms the upper surface of the mat, a second fabric layer that forms the lower surface of the textile layer and an intermediate pile layer that interconnects and spaces the first and second fabric layers.

2. A dust control mat according to claim 1, in which the first fabric layer comprises a mesh having a number of openings.

3. A dust control mat according to claim 2, in which the openings have a width of 0.5-10mm, preferably 1-4mm, more preferably 2-3mm.

4. A dust control mat according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the first fabric layer is a knitted fabric of approximately gauge 11.

5. A dust control mat according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the first fabric layer is made of a multifilament yarn, preferably polyester yarn.

6. A dust control mat according to claim 5, in which the first fabric layer is made of a yarn having a decitex of 100-200, preferably 136-167, more preferably approximately 150.

7. A dust control mat according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the second fabric layer has a substantially closed structure.

8. A dust control mat according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the second fabric layer is a knitted fabric of approximately gauge 22 or higher.

9. A dust control mat according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the second fabric layer is made of a multifilament yarn, preferably polyester yarn.

10. A dust control mat according to claim 9, in which the second fabric layer is made of a yarn having a decitex of 100-200, preferably 136-167, more preferably approximately 150.

11. A dust control mat according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the intermediate pile layer has a thickness of 2-10mm, preferably approximately 4-6mm.

12. A dust control mat according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the intermediate pile layer is made from a monofilament yarn having a diameter in the range 0.04-3mm, preferably 0.05-0.3mm, more preferably 0.1-0.2mm.

13. A dust control mat according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the intermediate pile layer is made from a synthetic monofilament yarn, preferably polyester yarn.

14. A dust control mat according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the textile layer is a warp knit fabric, preferably a Raschel knit fabric.

15. A dust control mat according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the backing layer is bonded to the second fabric layer.

16. A dust control mat according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the backing layer is made of rubber, preferably nitrile rubber.

17. A dust control mat according to claim 16, wherein the thickness of the rubber backing layer is from 0.5mm to 5mm, preferably 0.8mm to 3mm.

18. A dust control mat according to claim 16 or claim 17, in which the rubber backing layer is vulcanised to the second fabric layer.

19. A dust control mat according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the textile layer is printed.

20. A dust control mat according to claim 19, in which the textile layer is printed with an image having an observable resolution of at least 75dpi.

21. A dust control mat according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the textile layer has an area of at least $0.2m^2$, preferably at least $1m^2$.

22. A method of manufacturing a dust control mat, the method including the steps of bonding a backing layer to a textile layer that includes a spacer fabric having a first fabric layer, a second fabric layer and an intermediate pile layer that interconnects and spaces the first and second fabric layers.

23. A method according to claim 22, in which the spacer fabric is a knitted fabric, preferably a warp knitted fabric, more preferably a Rachel knit fabric.

24. A method according to claim 22 or claim 23, in which the first fabric layer comprises a mesh having a number of openings.

25. A method according to claim 24, in which the second fabric layer has a substantially closed structure.

26. A method according to any one of claims 22 to 25, wherein a backing layer of rubber is vulcanised to the textile layer in a heated press.

27. A method according to any one of claims 22 to 26, wherein the textile layer is printed using a sublimatic printing process.

28. A method according to claim 27 when dependent on claim 26, wherein the textile layer is printed during the backing process.

29. A dust control mat having a textile layer that includes a spacer fabric having a first fabric layer that forms the upper surface of the mat, a second fabric layer that forms the lower surface of the textile layer and an intermediate pile layer that interconnects and spaces the first and second fabric layers.